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## Stop hostile metro bylaw

**T**his refers to an impending draft bylaw threatening Quigney car washers with hefty fines or jail time if they operate without licences.

BCM needs a wider consultation with the community. I'm sure practical solutions can be found that will make this hostile stance unnecessary.

Is dirt from car washing at the beachfront really the main concern? This seems far-fetched.

The city centre is a prime example — filth and neglect is everywhere and far worse, yet nothing to do with car washers.

I've observed the beachfront carwash ecosystem for some time, and it's clear the car washers offer benefits for all beachfront visitors.

Most of them didn't go far at school and have little prospect of being employed, yet they choose to use their hands to make an honest living.

People can park their cars, take a walk or jog, or just take in the scenery; some meditate — all the while knowing their car is not only safe from intruders but being washed, and may I say very thoroughly and at a better price than many establishment car washers.

BCM should just get those Expanded Public Works Programme people to clean the streets daily.

If BCM disturbs this ecosystem and chases away these entrepreneurs trying to put food on the table, a parasitic ecosystem will creep in, where armed thugs will make life unbearable to beachfront visitors, cellphones will be snatched at gunpoint, cars will be hijacked, and those *tshisanyama* revellers at Ebuhlanti will be soft targets.

Let's remind those who don't know that the once-popular Leaches Bay died as a recreational spot when people started being mugged, knived and shot at in broad daylight by bandits who sprang from those bushes.

The question BCM should answer is this: can it afford to patrol the Quigney streets 24/7 when the marauding bandits come marching in?

Lastly, East London is not like other cities whose townships were purposely built 30 to 40km from the beachfront.

I trust and hope sanity prevails. — *Sityhilelo Malusi*, via email